

7. EVALUATING OUTCOMES OF HIV PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Introduction

Outcome evaluation, also referred to as summative evaluation, assesses intervention efficacy or effectiveness in producing the desired cognitive, belief, skill, and behavioral outcomes within a defined population. The fundamental assumption underlying an outcome evaluation is that the outcomes that are detected (or not detected) can be attributed to a specific set of activities—the components of the intervention.

Requirements

Data To Report

CDC health department grantees receiving \$1 million or more from CDC for HIV prevention activities should collect and report outcome data for one intervention funded by the health department. The data should be provided in a report to CDC, which should include the following information:

- Names and affiliations of evaluators conducting the outcome evaluation
- Target group
- Intervention type
- Intervention goals
- Formal theory, informal theory, or other justification underlying the intervention

In addition, the report should include the following elements:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation design and methods• Sample sizes for treatment and comparison groups and numbers of participants lost to attrition (as appropriate)• List of items on measurement tool• Method of data collection and types of statistical analysis used	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate descriptive statistics• Summary of findings (attrition, overall outcomes, and any subgroup analyses of differences due to demographics, features of the intervention, or other variables)• How the evaluation results will be utilized
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Methods

The outcome evaluation should be carried out for a distinct HIV prevention intervention or set of integrated interventions. The intervention should be of sufficient design, maturity of development, and promise to warrant a rigorous evaluation. The evaluation design should be at least quasi-experimental, using a non-equivalent comparison group or multiple measurements before and after the intervention. When possible, grantees should use an experimental design with random assignment of participants to treatment and control groups.

Additional guidance for evaluating the outcomes of HIV prevention programs is provided in Chapter 7 of *Evaluating CDC-funded Health Department HIV Prevention Programs—Volume 2: Supplemental Handbook*.